

Wrekin Area Committee Report

Wrekin Area Committee meets on a quarterly basis and reports to the SALC Executive. Five members (elected annually) represent our Committee on the SALC Executive. All members are welcome to attend. The agendas offer an opportunity to discuss local issues that may also affect other Parish Councils.

It held its AGM in September where it elected its Chairman Cllr Harvey Unwin and confirmed the 5 area committee representatives as Cllrs Wilson (Edgmond), Williams (St Georges & Priorslee), Offland (Hadley & Leegomery), Reynolds (Oakengates) and Wickson (Ercall Magna).

Over the last twelve months, guest speakers at the meetings have included Superintendent James Dunn on policing in the Borough, Cllr David Spicer on Safeguarding for Parish Councils and Diana West on Green Spaces (Physical Activity) Project.

Agenda items have included Planning & Development Information events, of which there were 9 sessions. Over 123 councillors attended these sessions. We often have issues and concerns regarding planning and enforcement and we are not alone, all Parish & Town Councils are affected in the same way.

The committee was fully briefed on the CSE Report by Cllr Paul Watling, who informed the committee that the resultant 'Plan' would be shared with all Town & Parish Councils as soon as possible. However, this has not yet happened and we have asked the question as to when it can be expected.

Ecological issues like Extreme Heat, Warm Front and Cost of Living Crisis were discussed at various meetings, together with Carbon Literacy and Climate Change. As you would expect, Highways and Transport are consistently on the agendas together with delays in Parish Projects – two more areas of our work that are of concern, when dealing with Telford & Wrekin Council.

We were consulted and had input on the new Parish Agreement with Telford & Wrekin, which came into being earlier this year and has been adopted by 26 of the Town & Parish Councils in the Borough. Two commitments included within it are to regularly review the agreement and to hold a bi-annual Conference, the first being on 4th October 2023.

Our next meeting is on the 22nd June 2023, via Zoom – all Members are welcome to attend.

Katrina Baker

Secretary